

Newsletter 25th September 2020

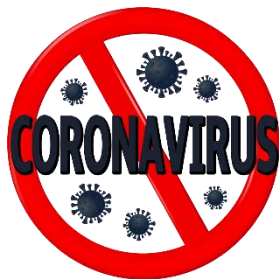
Dear parents and carers,

Firstly, a warm welcome to those of you who are new to Branfil this term, whether your child has just started school in Reception or has joined us from another school. I hope that your child is settling well and that you already feel part of our school community. Our website has lots of helpful information, including weekly updates on the year group pages, and our Twitter account gives you an insight into school life (@BranfilPrimary). If you still have unanswered questions then please contact the school office (office@branfil.havering.sch.uk) or your child's teacher (e.g. year6@branfil.havering.sch.uk).

Secondly, given the recent national news about the need for more stringent measures in order to control the spread of COVID-19, I would like to reiterate the main messages detailed in the letter sent out earlier this week from Havering Council. Please ensure you:

- **follow social distance rules** at all times, including when travelling to and from school, whilst waiting on Cedar Avenue and whilst queuing on the playground (there are markings on the pavement and playground to assist)
- **wear a face covering** at the school gates, and on the playground, unless you have good reason not to
- keep your child(ren) at home if anyone in your household has symptoms of COVID-19 and follow the government advice about self-isolating and testing.

These measures will help us to keep all pupils and staff safe and able to attend school, avoiding the need for children to have to learn at home again. Please continue to support us with these measures.



Thank you.

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

Values Based Education

This month our school value is Happiness and what a wonderfully appropriate value to start our school year with. All the staff at Branfil have been incredibly happy to welcome back all of our amazing children to school. This has been a challenging year in a variety of ways for our school due to the global pandemic, which we are still very much in the midst of, and seeing the smiling faces of children in our classes, corridors and playgrounds again has certainly given us all a welcome boost! Happiness is definitely infectious, so if you are feeling happy, make sure you let everyone know it and spread a bit of happiness in the world.

'Don't worry, be happy.' Bobby McFerrin

Harvest Festival Fundraiser

Over the years, Branfil Primary School has offered donations of food to Tapestry Care UK at Harvest time, for their most vulnerable. Due to the pandemic, offering food items is not going to be possible this year. As an alternative, we



have decided to raise money for their charity instead. Tapestry Care UK have been supporting the elderly during lockdown and continue to do so by delivering a freshly cooked main meal and dessert to people in the community that are in need of support and financially struggling.

The donations would be of great help to them so they can continue this service and make sure they can take care of as many people as possible in such hard times. For further information about the food service they have been running, please visit their website <https://www.tapestry-uk.org/>. If you would like to contribute, please visit the JustGiving page set up for this purpose - it's simple and easy to donate: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/harvest-tapestry-care-uk>. Donations can be made until 2nd October 2020.

Thank you

A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA for funding our



fantastic new play area in the quad. The Friends of Branfil generously donated £7,500 and the equipment was installed during the summer break. Our younger children will have lots of fun playing on it, whilst developing their gross motor skills, balance and strength.

Home Learning

Today, each year group's home learning sheets have been sent out by email; they will also be available on the home learning page of our website (on the curriculum tab). The teachers have listed activities, visits and websites that support learning linked to the science themes and the main topics being studied this term. We hope you and your child have fun engaging with some of these at home.

You will find details of our home learning expectations for maths and English on the same page of our website. There is also some new information about a weekly Google Classroom activity which will help your child to be ready for remote learning were he/she to need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Please read this home learning information carefully so you can continue to support your child's learning outside school.

Branfil Poetry Competition

October 1st is National Poetry Day and at Branfil we will be having a video assembly to celebrate. We would love your child to have a go at writing a poem at home and then record themselves performing it. The best performances will be chosen to be a part of our video assembly! This is open to children of any age in our school. Please send any videos you create to



year5@branfil.havering.sch.uk by Tuesday 29th September.

End of Term Donation

Branfil staff raised £820.00 for King George's Hospital and Queens Hospital at the end of last term as a thank you to our hard working NHS Team.

School pick up and drop offs

We are only able to have siblings waiting in our halls for drop off and pickups. We are not able to accommodate other relatives, friends or playdates due to the size of the halls and the need to maintain social distancing.

Return of Hot School Dinners

Hot school dinners will resume from Monday 5th October. Hot dinners will be served in polystyrene containers in the classroom for years 1-6.



Menu to follow by email – this will also be on the website.

School Nurse Telephone Consultations

Due to COVID-19, the school nurse will be conducting telephone consultations in place of drop-in sessions. These drop-in sessions are an opportunity for parents/carers to discuss and receive advice about any health concerns regarding their child, including healthy lifestyle, visual and oral health, sleep, behaviour, illnesses and toileting.

Telephone consultations are available on Wednesday 7th October 1-5pm. If you have concerns about your child's health and would like the school nurse to contact you on Wednesday 7th October 1-5pm, please e-mail the office - (office@branfil.havering.sch.uk) to express your interest by Friday 2nd October. In this e-mail, please confirm the telephone number which you would like the school nurse to contact you on. Please also indicate if there is a preferred time between 1-5pm that would be most convenient to be contacted.

Year 6 Secondary Transfers

If your child is in Year 6, now is the time that you will need to make an application for your child to start secondary school in September 2021. Without an application your child will not be offered a secondary school place. Please visit the Havering website www.havering.gov.uk/admissions/secondary where you will find a brochure titled 'Transferring to a Havering Secondary School in September 2021' along with a short presentation video which explains the application process and answers some of the most common questions asked by parents. You will also find a link to the application system (eAdmissions).

To ensure that you gain a clear understanding of the process we urge you to view these resources before you make any application. If after reading the brochure and watching the video you have any further questions, please email the school admissions team via schooladmissions@havering.gov.uk or call the team on 01708 434600.

All applications for Secondary Schools must be submitted online by no later than 31 October 2020.



Walk to School Week

Our walk to school week is happening between 5th and 9th October. Further details to follow!

Safer Streets Scheme

The Havering Safer Streets Scheme will start on Monday 28th September between 8.00-9.30am and 2.00-3.30pm. There will be no vehicular access to Cedar Avenue and part of South View drive during these times unless you have an approved exemption.



Contact with teachers

A reminder to parents/carers that you can contact your child's class teacher by using the following emails:

elm@branfil.havering.sch.uk

fir@branfil.havering.sch.uk

ash@branfil.havering.sch.uk

year1@branfil.havering.sch.uk

year2@branfil.havering.sch.uk

year3@branfil.havering.sch.uk

year4@branfil.havering.sch.uk

year5@branfil.havering.sch.uk

year6@branfil.havering.sch.uk

Miss Bain's Challenge

Say the colour of each word!
(Don't read the word)
How fast can you say it?

black white yellow green red blue
yellow red black green white red
white green red black yellow green
black white yellow green red blue
white green red black yellow green
yellow red black green white red
white green red black yellow green

Core Values Competition

The value is Happiness and the medium is colour pencil and/or paint. Children can create anything they think represents happiness. Entries to be handed in to class teachers.

Closing date for this is **28th September 2020** and the winner will be announced on 2nd October.

Excellence in the Arts Award

Lois in 3 Maple won this week for her design for a building that she wants to sculpt. She has really concentrated on this topic and is producing lovely work.

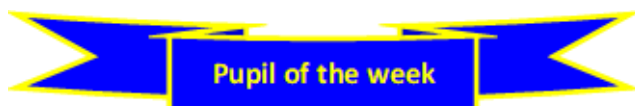


Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed and you think you may be eligible for Free School Meal please see the link below to apply.

If your child is in R or KS1, you do not currently pay for school meals, but the school would still be able to get funding if you apply for free school meals. If your child is in KS2, you would save a significant amount of money if your child is entitled to free school meals.

As a thank you to any parents/carers who apply for, and are awarded, pupil premium, they will also get a one off grant of £50 towards school uniform to be used at the school suppliers. To apply is very simple: <https://my.havering.gov.uk/pages/onlineforms/free-school-meals.aspx#details>



18th September

Amelia, Noah, Blake, Samuel, Eliana, Elizabeth, Tilly, Olivia, Myle-Rae, Eadi, Benjamin, Maroua, William, Maisie, Fedor, Ruby-Mae, Jessica, Ashton.

25th September

Laura, Joshua, Oliver, Milena, Natalia, Joe, Henry, Benjamin, Oliver, Jack, Daisy, Georgia, Bonnie, Issa, Heath, Charlie, Sophie, Joseph.

Happy Birthday!

Millie, Rishy, Evie, Poppy, Leyla, Elizabeth, Holly, Olivia, Oliver, Lois, Casey, Jenson, Katie, Loredana, Rosie, Max, Maksim, David, Aadit.

